

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method of processing electronic forms, the
2 method comprising:
3 receiving information identifying a first electronic form;
4 determining a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the
5 first electronic form, the set of descriptors including a first descriptor associated with a first
6 field;
7 accessing user information comprising information identifying a set of
8 identifiers stored for a user, the set of identifiers stored for the user including a first identifier
9 corresponding to the first descriptor, wherein a first value is associated with the first
10 identifier;
11 displaying the first electronic form on a computer display such that the first
12 value is displayed in the first field of the first electronic form;
13 identifying at least a second descriptor associated with a field in the first
14 electronic form that does not have a corresponding identifier in the set of identifiers stored for
15 the user;
16 determining a second value entered in the field associated with the second
17 descriptor; and
18 including an identifier corresponding to the second descriptor in the set of
19 identifiers stored for the user, wherein the second value is associated with the identifier
20 corresponding to the second descriptor.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of descriptors associated with
2 the set of fields included in the first electronic form include field names associated with the
3 set of fields and the set of identifiers stored for the user comprise one or more field names
4 associated with the set of fields.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving information identifying a second electronic form;
3 determining a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the
4 second electronic form, the set of descriptors including the second descriptor; and
5 displaying the second electronic form on a computer display such that the
6 second value is displayed in the field of the second electronic form associated with the
7 second descriptor.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 determining a third value entered in the first field of the first electronic form
3 that is different from the first value; and
4 updating the user information such that the third value is associated with the
5 first identifier.

1 5. A computer-implemented method of processing electronic forms, the
2 method comprising:
3 displaying a first electronic form, the first electronic form comprising at least a
4 first field, wherein a first descriptor is associated with the first field;
5 determining first information entered in the first field on the first electronic
6 form;
7 storing information for a user indicating that the first information was entered
8 in a field associated with the first descriptor.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
2 receiving information identifying a second electronic form;
3 determining a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the
4 second electronic form, the set of descriptors including the first descriptor; and
5 displaying the second electronic form on a computer display such that the first
6 information is displayed in the field of the second electronic form associated with the first
7 descriptor.

1 7. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium
2 for processing electronic forms, the computer program product comprising:
3 code for receiving information identifying a first electronic form;
4 code for determining a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields
5 included in the first electronic form, the set of descriptors including a first descriptor
6 associated with a first field;
7 code for accessing user information comprising information identifying a set
8 of identifiers stored for a user, the set of identifiers stored for the user including a first
9 identifier corresponding to the first descriptor, wherein a first value is associated with the first
10 identifier;

11 code for displaying the first electronic form on a computer display such that
12 the first value is displayed in the first field of the first electronic form;
13 code for identifying at least a second descriptor associated with a field in the
14 first electronic form that does not have a corresponding identifier in the set of identifiers
15 stored for the user;
16 code for determining a second value entered in the field associated with the
17 second descriptor; and
18 code for including an identifier corresponding to the second descriptor in the
19 set of identifiers stored for the user, wherein the second value is associated with the identifier
20 corresponding to the second descriptor.

1 8. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the set of
2 descriptors associated with the set of fields included in the first electronic form include field
3 names associated with the set of fields and the set of identifiers stored for the user include
4 one or more field names associated with the set of fields.

1 9. The computer program product of claim 7 further comprising:
2 code for receiving information identifying a second electronic form;
3 code for determining a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields
4 included in the second electronic form, the set of descriptors including the second descriptor;
5 and
6 code for displaying the second electronic form on a computer display such that
7 the second value is displayed in the field of the second electronic form associated with the
8 second descriptor.

1 10. The computer program product of claim 7 further comprising:
2 code for determining a third value entered in the first field of the first
3 electronic form that is different from the first value; and
4 code for updating the user information such that the third value is associated
5 with the first identifier.

1 11. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium
2 for processing electronic forms, the computer program product comprising:
3 code for displaying a first electronic form, the first electronic form comprising
4 at least a first field, wherein a first descriptor is associated with the first field;

code for determining first information entered in the first field on the first electronic form;
code for storing information for a user indicating that the first information was entered in a field associated with the first descriptor.

12. The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:
code for receiving information identifying a second electronic form;
code for determining a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the second electronic form, the set of descriptors including the first descriptor;
and
code for displaying the second electronic form on a computer display such that the first information is displayed in the field of the second electronic form associated with the first descriptor.

13. A system comprising:
a communication network;
a first computer coupled to the communication network; and
a second computer coupled to the communication network;
wherein the first computer is configured to:
receive information from the second computer identifying a first electronic form;
determine a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the first electronic form, the set of descriptors including a first descriptor associated with a first field;
access user information comprising information identifying a set of identifiers stored for a user, the set of identifiers stored for the user including a first identifier corresponding to the first descriptor, wherein a first value is associated with the first identifier;
cause the second computer to display the first electronic form such that the first value is displayed in the first field of the first electronic form;
identify at least a second descriptor associated with a field in the first electronic form that does not have a corresponding identifier in the set of identifiers stored for the user;

20 determine a second value entered in the field associated with the
21 second descriptor; and
22 include an identifier corresponding to the second descriptor in the set
23 of identifiers stored for the user, wherein the second value is associated with the identifier
24 corresponding to the second descriptor.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the set of descriptors associated with
2 the set of fields included in the first electronic form include field names associated with the
3 set of fields and the set of identifiers stored for the user comprise one or more field names
4 associated with the set of fields.

1 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the first computer is further
2 configured to:
3 receive information identifying a second electronic form;
4 determine a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the
5 second electronic form, the set of descriptors including the second descriptor; and
6 cause the second computer to display the second electronic form such that the
7 second value is displayed in the field of the second electronic form associated with the
8 second descriptor.

1 16. The system of claim 13 wherein the first computer is further
2 configured to:
3 determine a third value entered in the first field of the first electronic form that
4 is different from the first value; and
5 update the user information such that the third value is associated with the first
6 identifier.

1 17. A data processing system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 an output device; and
4 a memory configured to store instructions that when executed by the processor
5 cause the processor to:
6 display a first electronic form using the output device, the first
7 electronic form comprising at least a first field, wherein a first descriptor is associated with
8 the first field;

9 determine first information entered in the first field on the first
10 electronic form;
11 store information for a user indicating that the first information was
12 entered in a field associated with the first descriptor.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 17 wherein the instructions stored
2 in the memory comprise instructions that when executed by the processor cause the processor
3 to:
4 receive information identifying a second electronic form;
5 determine a set of descriptors associated with a set of fields included in the
6 second electronic form, the set of descriptors including the first descriptor; and
7 display the second electronic form using the output device such that the first
8 information is displayed in the field of the second electronic form associated with the first
9 descriptor.